

# The Charles Williams Society

NEWSLETTER

NO. 1, SPRING, 1976

FOUNDING OF THE CHARLES WILLIAMS SOCIETY

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The founding of a Charles Williams Society has been considered for a long time. The weekend conference at The Royal Foundation of St. Katharine (Butcher Row, London E.14) entitled "Charles Williams - An Exploration", in October 1975, gathered such a large and varied group of people that a society became a real possibility.

After talking to many people at the Conference and some who did not come to it, Alice Mary and Charles Hadfield first told Charles Williams' son, Michael, of their proposal, and then invited Jenet and Philip Bovey, Xenia Howard-Johnston, Jim Lowry, Hilda Pallan, Anne Scott and Richard Wallis to come to their house (The White Cottage, 21 Randolph Road, London W.9) on 6th December, 1975, and talk about founding a society. In effect, this was the beginning. The basic objects were laid out in the prospectus for membership, which you have all received. Organisation then followed: Philip and Jenet Bovey produced the prospectus and drafted a constitution; Anne Scott started the library. Now we are preparing for the first meeting of the Society on the 15th May.

## COUNCIL MEMBERS

A.M. & E.C.R. Hadfield (General Secretaries), The White Cottage, 21 Randolph Road, London W.9.

Anne Scott (Librarian), 25 Corfton Road, London W.5.

Jenet & Philip Bovey (Membership Secretaries), 32 Maple Street, London, W.1.

Xenia Howard-Johnston (Editor of the Newsletter), 13 Princess Road, London, N.W.1.

Hilda Pallan, 179 Makepeace Mansions, London N.6.

Richard Wallis, 30 Wallorton Gardens, London S.W.14.

## MEMBERS (April, 1976)

J.C.S. Airey, 39 Gunnersbury Court, Bollo Lane, London W.3.

R.D. & P.M.D. Binfield, 80 Leandor Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey CR4 6JW.

The Revd. E.M. Burgess, 3a Clifford Road, Stanley, Co.Durham, DH9 0AB.

Doreen Berry, Flat 4, 1 Cornwall Gardens, London S.W.7.

George Every, 7 Lenton Avenue, The Park, Nottingham.

June Fisher, The Rectory, Staplegrove, Taunton, Somerset.

Ann & Alec Hadfield, 112 Albert Street, Windsor, Berks SL4 5BU.

J. Harris, Highdown, The Broadway, Alfriston, Sussex.

John Heath-Stubbs, 35 Sutherland Place, London W.2.

Sue Harris, St. Julian's, Coolham, Horsham, Sussex.

MEMBERS (Continued)

Brian Lawrence Horne, King's College Hostel, Vincent Square,  
London S.W.1.

The Revd. Arthur Lewis, 13 Glynrhondda Street, Cardiff CF2 4AN.

Elizabeth R. Moberly, Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford.

Elizabeth Montefiore, White Lodge, 23 Bellevue Road, London  
S.W.17.

Susan Spencer, Manor Farm House, Ripe, Lewes, Sussex.

Marjorie Stewart, 51 Argyll Road, London W.8.

Peter Thornber, 29 Ashchurch Park Villas, London W.12.

Clyde S. Kilby, 620N, Washington Street, Wheaton, Illinois,  
60187, U.S.A.

Joyce Hines, 655 E.14 Street, 4E New York City, N.Y. 10009,  
U.S.A.

Edith Williams, 33 Church Street, St. Albans, AL3 5NG.

MEETINGS OF THE CHARLES WILLIAMS SOCIETY

The meetings will be held at the Institute of Christian Studies, 84 Margaret Street, London W.1., on Saturdays at 2.30 p.m., and will be followed by discussion and tea. The Institute is five minutes walk from Oxford Street Tube Station, up Upper Regent Street, second turning on the right, and on the right hand side.

1. 15th May: to read Seed of Adam; Hilda Pallan in charge.
2. 10th July: subject : the theology of romantic love; Anne Scott in charge. Books: He Came Down From Heaven, The Figure of Beatrice, Religion and Love in Dante.
3. 23rd October: readings from Charles Williams' poetry, early, middle and mature; Alice Mary Hadfield in charge. Members should bring any books of verse they have.
4. 12th February (1977): subject: Charles Williams' literary criticism. Extracts from his critical works will be read.

Please bring any copies of the books to be used at a meeting. This is important. There is no fee for members, but 50p must be paid for a guest (members can bring one guest each) and handed to the person in charge of the meeting.

#### LONDON READING GROUP

A group formed after the death of Charles Williams in 1945 to read his work will be meeting on the following dates:

24th April, Saturday, at 7.30 p.m. in Anne Spalding's flat, 88 Kensington Park Road, London W.11.

The Figure of Beatrice will be read in connection with Dante's Purgatorio.

20th June, Sunday, at 1.00 p.m. in Alice Mary Hadfield's house, the White Cottage, 21 Randolph Road, London W.9. The Region of the Summer Stars will be read. Please bring sandwiches.

8th August, Sunday, at 1.00 p.m. in David and Dulcie Caro's house, 50 Drayton Gardens, London S.W.10. Poetry to be selected. Please bring sandwiches.

## PRODUCTION OF A CHARLES WILLIAMS PLAY PLANNED

It is hoped that Thomas Cranmer of Canterbury will be staged in the University Church in Oxford in November. The original site of Cranmer's trial will be used. The estimated cost will be £275 and the organisers would like to find other guarantors against loss to alleviate the potential burden to be borne by their P.C.C. Any support will be welcome.

Signed: Stephen Tucker  
Tony Dickinson

For further details contact: S.R. Tucker, Ripon College,  
Cuddesdon, Oxford OX9 9EX.

## BOOKS, ARTICLES, REVIEWS, REFERENCES

Please would members send the Editor any references to Charles Williams which they find in books, articles etc. giving an exact description of the source.

Reviews of Evelyn Underhill by Christopher Armstrong and Spirit of the Supernatural (see Times Literary Supplement 6th February, 1976) contain references to Charles Williams.

Edmund Crispin (pen name of Bruce Montgomery) Buried for Pleasure (Gollancz, 1948) chap. X, p.81, contains a reference.

The journal Christian Vol.3, No. 3 (currently on sale and available from the Institute of Christian Studies, 7 Margaret Street, London W.1) contains the following articles which may be of interest to members:

B.L. Horne: "This Also Is Thou; Neither Is This Thou:  
Charles Williams' Doctrine of Creation"  
(pp.207-214)

John Allitt: "The Nobility of Beatrice" (pp.215-220)

The following books by Charles Williams are still in print:

Taliessin Through Logres, Oxford Reprints, OUP, £1-50.

The Place of the Lion, Faber, 1965, £0-60.

Shadows of Ecstasy, Faber, 1965, £1-40. and £0-40.

The Image of the City (ed. Anne Ridler), Oxford Reprints, OUP, 1970, £2-50.

The following book, An Introduction to Charles Williams, Robert Hale Ltd., London, 1959, can be obtained from the author, Alice Mary Hadfield @ £2-20. per copy or £2-50. post free (of which £1-00 goes to the Society's funds). Apply to The White Cottage, 21 Randolph Road, London W.9. Only a few copies remain.

#### THE CHARLES WILLIAMS SOCIETY LIBRARY

Librarian: Mrs. Anne Scott, 25 Corfton Road, Ealing, W5 2HP.  
(Tel: 997-2667)

Members wishing to borrow a book should first ask the Librarian for a copy of the library rules. The following books are available from the library. (Postal charges are shown in brackets after each title).

#### About Charles Williams:

Arthurian Torso. Charles Williams and C.S. Lewis. (21p)

Charles Williams. John Heath-Stubbs. (11p)

Essays presented to Charles Williams. Introduction by C.S. Lewis. (23½p)

Introduction to Charles Williams. Alice Mary Hadfield (42p)

By Charles Williams:

Novels:

- All Hallows' Eve. (13½p)  
The Greater Trumps. (18½p)  
Many Dimensions. (3 paperback copies (11p):  
1 hardback copy (18½p)  
The Place of the Lion. (2 copies) (13½p)  
War in Heaven. (2 copies) (18½p)

Biography:

- Rochester (42p)  
Henry VII (42p)  
\*Queen Elizabeth (13½p)

Poetry:

- Taliessin through Logres (2 copies) (18½p)  
The Region of the Summer Stars (2 copies) (13½p)  
Arthurian Torso, Taliessin through Logres and  
The Region of the Summer Stars. (42p)

Plays:

- Collected Plays (Thomas Cranmer of Canterbury,  
Judgment at Chelmsford, Seed of Adam, The Death  
of Good Fortune, The House by the Stable, Grab and  
Grace, The House of the Octopus, Terror of Light,  
The Three Temptations) (28½p)  
The House of the Octopus (13½p)  
Judgment at Chelmsford (11p)  
Seed of Adam (original version printed in Christendo  
September 1937) (11p)  
Seed of Adam (contains also The Death of Good  
Fortune, The House by the Stable and Grab and Grac  
(16p)  
Three Plays (The Witch, The Chaste Wanton, The Rite  
of the Passion) (2 copies) (21p)

Theology:

- The Descent of the Dove. (42p)  
He Came down from Heaven. (13½p)



By Charles Williams (Continued)

Historical:

Witchcraft. (42p)

Literary Criticism:

The English Poetic Mind. (23½p)

Reason and Beauty in the Poetic Mind. (18½p)

Introduction to the English Poems of John Milton.  
(16p)

The Figure of Beatrice. (21p)

Essays:

The Image of the City. (42p)

Compilations by Charles Williams:

Theological:

\*The New Christian Year. (16p)

The Passion of Christ. (11p)

Literary:

The New Book of English Verse. (42p)

Victorian Narrative Verse. (26p)

\* Special terms apply to these volumes.

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Any information for The Charles Williams Society Newsletter should be sent to the Editor, Xenia Howard-Johnston, 13 Princess Road, London N.W.1.

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